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(d) *Procedure on examinations.* (1) The deponent shall be subject to cross-examination. Objections to questions or documents shall be in short form, stating the grounds of objections relied upon. The questions propounded, together with all objections made (but not including argument or debate), shall be recorded verbatim. In lieu of oral examination, parties may transmit written questions to the officer prior to the examination and the officer shall propound such questions to the deponent.

(2) The applicant shall arrange for the examination of the witness either by oral examination, or by written questions upon agreement of the parties or as directed by the Judge. If the examination is conducted by means of written questions, copies of the questions shall be served upon the other party to the proceeding and filed with the officer and the other party may serve cross questions and file them with the officer at any time prior to the time of the examination.

(e) *Certification by officer.* The officer shall certify on the deposition that the deponent was duly sworn and that the deposition is a true record of the deponent's testimony. The officer shall then securely seal the deposition, together with one copy thereof (unless there are more than two parties in the proceeding, in which case there should be another copy for each additional party), in an envelope and mail the same by registered or certified mail to the Hearing Clerk.

(f) *Corrections to the transcript.* (1) At any time prior to the hearing any party may file a motion proposing corrections to the transcript of the deposition.

(2) Unless a party files such a motion in the manner prescribed, the transcript shall be presumed, except for obvious typographical errors, to be a true, correct, and complete transcript of the testimony given in the deposition proceeding and to contain an accurate description or reference to all exhibits in connection therewith, and shall be deemed to be certified correct without further procedure.

(3) At any time prior to use of the deposition in accordance with paragraph (g) of this section and after con-

sideration of any objections filed thereto, the Judge may issue an order making any corrections in the transcript which the Judge finds are warranted, which corrections shall be entered onto the original transcript by the Hearing Clerk (without obscuring the original text).

(g) *Use of deposition.* A deposition ordered and taken in accordance with the provisions of this section may be used in a proceeding under these rules if the Judge finds that the evidence is otherwise admissible and that the witness is dead; that the witness is unable to attend or testify because of age, sickness, infirmity, or imprisonment; or that such exceptional circumstances exist as to make it desirable, in the interests of justice, to allow the deposition to be used. If the party upon whose motion the deposition was taken refuses to offer it in evidence, any other party may offer the deposition or any thereof in evidence. If only part of a deposition is offered in evidence by a party, an adverse party may require the introduction of any other part which ought in fairness to be considered with the part introduced and any party may introduce any other parts.

§ 1.429 Ex parte communications.

(a) At no stage of the proceeding between its institution and issuance of the final decision shall an employee of the Department who is or may reasonably be expected to be involved in the decisional process of the proceeding discuss ex parte the merits of the proceeding with any person having an interest in the proceeding, or with any representative of such person: *Provided*, That, procedural matters and status reports shall not be included within this limitation; and *Provided further*, That an employee of the Department who is or may be involved in the decisional process of the proceeding may discuss the merits of the proceeding if all parties of record have been given notice and an opportunity to participate. A memorandum of any such discussion shall be included in the record.

(b) No interested person shall make or knowingly cause to be made to the Judge an ex parte communication relevant to the merits of the proceeding.

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(c) If the Judge reviews an ex parte communication in violation of this section, the one who receives the communication shall place in the public record of the proceeding:

- (1) All such written communication;
- (2) Memoranda stating the substance of all such oral communications; and
- (3) All written responses, and memoranda stating the substance of all oral responses thereto.

(d) Upon receipt of a communication knowingly made or knowingly caused to be made by a party in violation of this section, the Judge may, to the extent consistent with the interests of justice and the policy of the underlying statute, require the party to show cause why his claim or interest in the proceeding should not be dismissed, denied, disregarded, or otherwise adversely affected on account of such violation.

(e) To the extent consistent with the interests of justice and the policy of the underlying statute, a violation of this section shall be sufficient grounds for a decision adverse to the party who knowingly commits a violation of this section or who knowingly causes such a violation to occur.

(f) For purposes of this section “ex parte communication” means an oral or written communication not on the public record with respect to which reasonable prior notice to all parties is not given, but it shall not include requests for status reports on any matter or the proceeding.

PART 1a—LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES

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AUTHORITY: Sec. 1337, Pub. L. 97-98; 5 U.S.C. 301; 5 U.S.C. App. I.

SOURCE: 47 FR 2073, Jan. 14, 1982, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1a.1 General statement.

This part sets forth the rules issued by the Secretary of Agriculture to im-

plement section 1337 of Public Law 97-98 relating to:

- (a) Arrests without warrant for certain criminal felony violations;
- (b) Execution of warrants for arrests, searches of premises and seizures of evidence; and
- (c) The carrying of firearms by designated officials of the Office of Inspector General.

§ 1a.2 Authorization.

Any official of the Office of Inspector General who is designated by the Inspector General according to §§ 1a.3 and 1a.5 of this part and who is engaged in the performance of his/her official duties under the authority provided in section 6, or described in section 9, of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), is authorized to—

- (a) Make an arrest without a warrant for any criminal felony violation subject to § 1a.4, if such violation is committed, or if the official has probable cause to believe that such violation is being committed, in his/her presence;
- (b) Execute and serve a warrant for an arrest, for the search of premises, or the seizure of evidence if such warrant is issued under authority of the United States upon probable cause to believe that any criminal felony violation, subject to § 1a.4, has been committed; and
- (c) Carry a firearm.

[50 FR 13759, Apr. 8, 1985]

§ 1a.3 Persons authorized.

Any person who is employed in the Office of Inspector General and who is designated by the Inspector General in accordance with and subject to § 1a. and who conducts investigations of alleged or suspected felony criminal violations of statutes administered by the Secretary of Agriculture or any agency of the Department of Agriculture may exercise the authorities listed in and pursuant to § 1a.2.

§ 1a.4 Limitations.

The powers granted by §§ 1a.2(a) and 1a.2(b) shall be exercised only when a designated official is engaged in an investigation of alleged or suspected felony violations of statutes administered